was not aware that our town is infested with lepers. Anybody who passes over our roads, if he has eyes to see and observe things with, can easily know the fact. What is the use of replying that the Government have no information on such a vitally important matter as that? We now find a lot of people busying themselves about the question of leprosy because the Viceroy and other big people have moved in the matter. Why could not Government get at it before? Any local officer, the Collector or the chairman of the municipality, could have easily given the information. It is all very well to dance about, now that the Viceroy and others are moving in the matter, but it was then *suo motu* really a question of doing something humanitarian to the people, but in this cause the Ministers were nowhere and did nothing.

" Another point I want to touch is on the lying-in hospital at Mangalore. It is such a disgrace to the Government and the public that I think the hon. the Chief Minister should have known it two years ago when he visited that institution. I have seen with my own eyes 11 or 12 women in the maternity ward, which is not more than 12 by 20 feet. In this, these women were huddled together in the most miserable condition. And I am told that sometimes it is even worse, and if the hon. the Minister did come to know of it, I am sure he should have done something. We in Mangalore have now collected about Rs. 20,000 and applied for some provision being made. I find nothing in the budget which shows an attempt at least to meet us half-way and give us something so that we can start the hospital at once. It is so very badly needed and I want to know what the Government is going to do in this matter, in the way of giving us something. We have got only about Rs. 20,000 and we want something more to begin the work at once.

" The Indian Lepers Act was passed in the year 1898 and as yet Government have taken no measures whatever for the last 20 years to provide us with any large hospital or give adequate aid to the existing leper asylums in Mangalore and elsewhere. Now at last comes the big scheme of a leper colony at Chingleput which has been pitched upon us without taking the public into confidence and ascertaining the general opinion whether a large leper colony at a cost of several lakhs of rupees in Chingleput district would satisfy the needs and conveniences of the whole Presidency. Every leper would naturally wish to remain in a place near his own and among people talking the same language as he does, and do you expect that people from Malabar or Kanara would willingly go all the way to the Chingleput district for being properly housed, treated and taken care of? Apart from that, the question is whether Government is now entrusting the work to a society which would economically carry out the functions of a leper asylum. Dealing with lepers is a thing of a very difficult nature, and among us, Roman Catholics, we have got religious orders several centuries old who have been dealing with this question, who have been looking after lepers as a labour of love, who have given up the world and whose one object in life is the care of the sick even at the risk and sacrifice of their lives. Men and women like Father Daniel have contracted leprosy in order to save lepers and have died as lepers. Such religious persons can do useful work. As a matter of fact we find at Chingleput an arrangement was arrived at with a religious order in the year 1913, and we have not heard much of it afterwards. Now at last, as a very big scheme is started from big quarters,